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Letter dated 6 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I write with reference to the violations of international humanitarian law by the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Yemen.

During the past two weeks, the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former President Saleh have repeatedly committed human rights violations across the country. As those forces continue their indiscriminate shelling of the city of Aden, the situation has reached a severe crisis point, with shortages of water, food and medical supplies. Below are some examples of what has been committed by those forces over the past couple of weeks:

- 193 killed and more than 1,000 injured in the city of Aden in the past 24 hours alone, during shelling of the city by the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former President Saleh
- The shelling of the city of Dhale by the Houthis and the thirty-third Brigade of the Army loyal to Saleh
- An ambulance carrying wounded civilians in the Aden/Crater neighbourhood was struck by Houthi militias killing everyone in the vehicle
- The use of excessive violence against peaceful demonstrators in Sana'a with the disappearance, arrest and torture of demonstrators
- The death of several protesters under torture, the most famous case being that of Saleh Albashry, who was found burned on the side of the road in Sana'a
- 8 people were shot dead and 45 were injured by security forces in Taiz on 24 March during a peaceful march against the presence of Houthi militias in the city
- Placement of anti-aircraft batteries on the roofs of residential neighbourhoods causing civilian deaths
- Kidnapping of 122 members of the Islah party on Saturday, 4 April 2015
- Shelling of the electric generators of the city of Aden
- Expulsion of technicians from the water plant in the city of Aden, which led to massive shortages

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- Shelling of factories owned by the Hayel Saeed An'am business group in Hodeida and Lahj by forces loyal to former President Saleh in revenge for the non-cooperation of the group in their military operations against Aden.

Those actions constitute flagrant violations of international law and are a grave threat to the peace, security and stability of Yemen, its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, as well as create conditions conducive to strengthening Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. The Houthis have insisted on repeatedly taking unilateral actions and using violence to achieve their political goals. They have violated Security Council resolutions, undermined the political transition in Yemen that was based on the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism and the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue conference, and have rejected dialogue to resolve the crisis.

In the face of the actions by the Houthis and forces loyal to Ali Abdulla Saleh, the President of the Republic of Yemen, Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi requested the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and the League of Arab States to immediately provide support, by all necessary means and measures, including military intervention, to protect Yemen and its people. The Security Council has been informed of that request (letter dated 24 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations).

Accordingly, since 26 March 2015, the objective of the coalition formed in response to that request has been to protect the people of Yemen from the violence targeted at them by the Houthis and forces loyal to Saleh and to support the legitimate President and Government of Yemen, while committing to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen.

I would like to emphasize that the coalition forces have been acting in coordination with the Government of Yemen and have adhered to international law, including the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, international humanitarian law and international law of human rights, in carrying out their operations in Yemen. In particular, the coalition is taking all necessary measures to avoid any unfortunate collateral damage among civilians and civilian infrastructure, while protecting the people of Yemen from the butchering of civilians and the indiscriminate shelling of Yemeni cities conducted by the criminal Houthi militiamen and their allied forces and followers of former President Saleh, who are considered outlaws, according to the constitution of Yemen and international law.

In coordination with the Government of Yemen, the coalition has been acting to facilitate the evacuation of foreign nationals and civilians, as well as to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where needed.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled Hussein Mohamed **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative